

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A multiple exchange instance, comprising:
a plurality of exchanges; and
a common instance for implementing the exchanges, the exchanges sharing a set of common components and each exchange having a respective view having respective unique components, wherein the common instance comprises a database divided into a plurality of sub-schemas, and wherein each of the exchanges is singularly associated with and implemented within a respective one of the plurality of sub-schemas providing a respective partial view of the common instance, wherein the common components enable a trading partner client of the common instance to perform at least one common communication operation collectively for a plurality of the exchanges, and wherein each of the exchanges is allocated to a different trading partner~~merchant~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 1 wherein the multiple exchanges are implemented within the common instance and wherein the common instance facilitates communication between a first exchange of the exchanges and a second exchange of the exchanges.

3. (Previously Presented) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 1 wherein the multiple exchanges each have a respective operator, and wherein the multiple exchange instance allows each operator to perform input/output using the common components to perform the input/output for each of the respective multiple exchanges.

4. (Currently Amended) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 3 wherein the input/output comprises a collective ~~[[an]]~~ authentication operation for each of the exchanges.

5. (Currently Amended) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 3 wherein the common input/output comprises a collective catalog content input operation for each of the exchanges.

6. (Original) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 3 wherein the common input/output comprises a registration operation for each of the exchanges.

7. (Original) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 1 wherein the multiple exchanges are configured to use communication protocols to communicate with processes external to the common instance.

8. (Original) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 7 wherein the communication protocol is XML (extensible markup language).

9. (Original) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 1 wherein the common instance is implemented using a database program running on one or more computer systems.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions for causing at least one processor to perform a method for a multiple exchange instance implemented on a server computer system utilizing said at least one processor, the instructions comprising: ~~method comprising the steps of:~~

a) instructions for causing said at least one processor to define ~~defining~~ a common instance using a common schema that defines a database;

b) instructions for causing said at least one processor to slice ~~slicing~~ the common instance into a plurality of exchanges, wherein the common instance is divided into a plurality of sub-schemas, and wherein each of the exchanges is singularly associated with and is implemented within a respective one of the plurality of sub-schemas providing a respective partial view of the common instance and wherein each of the exchanges is allocated to a different merchant trading partner; ~~merchant trading partner~~;

- c) instructions for causing said at least one processor to implement
~~implementing~~ a common support architecture for the exchanges;
- d) instructions for causing said at least one processor to implement
~~implementing~~ efficient communication between a first exchange of the exchanges and a second exchange of the exchanges using the common support architecture; and
- e) instructions for causing said at least one processor to present ~~presenting~~ a custom view of the exchanges to respective operators of the exchanges; and
- f) instructions for causing said at least one processor to perform, at the direction of a trading partner client of the common instance, at least one common communication operation collectively for a plurality of the exchanges.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10 wherein the exchanges share a set of common components within the common support architecture and wherein the custom view has respective unique components.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10 wherein said instructions for causing said at least one processor to implement ~~implementing~~ efficient communication includes implementing the multiple exchanges within the common instance for facilitating communication between the first exchange and the second exchange.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10, wherein the instructions further comprise: ~~method further comprises the step of:~~
instructions for causing said at least one processor to perform ~~performing~~ input/output using the common components for each of the multiple exchanges, the input/output performed by the respective operators.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 13 wherein the input/output comprises ~~[[an]]~~ a collective authentication operation for each of the exchanges.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 13 wherein the common input/output comprises a catalog content input operation for each of the exchanges.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 13 wherein the common input/output comprises a registration operation for each of the exchanges.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10 wherein the exchanges are configured to use communication protocols to communicate with processes external to the common instance.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the communication protocol is XML (extensible markup language).

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10 wherein said instructions that cause said at least one processor to define comprise instructions that cause said at least one processor to implement ~~defining includes implementing~~ the common instance using a database program.

20. (Currently Amended) A multiple exchange instance, comprising: a plurality of exchanges; and

a common database for implementing the exchanges within a common schema, the exchanges sharing a set of common components and each exchange having a respective view having respective unique components, wherein the common schema is divided into a plurality of sub-schemas, and wherein each of the exchanges is singularly associated with and is implemented within a respective one of the plurality of subschemas providing a respective partial view of the common schema, and wherein each of the exchanges is allocated to a different merchant, and wherein the exchanges each have a respective operator, allowing an operator to use the common components to perform input/output using the common components to perform the collective input/output for each a group of the exchanges.

21. (Previously Presented) The multiple exchange instance of claim 20, wherein the multiple exchange instance provides registration for a group of exchanges simultaneously.